COVID-19 measures in the educational spaces

During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, experts of the Campus and Facility Management (CFM) service department examined the performance specifications of the air ventilation and circulation systems in the lecture rooms, prior to being put into use again. Based on the design of the installations, a check was carried out to ensure that the ventilation complies with the requirements set by RIVM (compliance with the Bouwbesluit) and the Covid-19 guidelines of the REHVA (Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Associations). The latter is more extensive and strict and forms the basis of the directives in several European countries, including Germany.

Subsequently, the building automation systems are set up in such a way that the rooms are maximally ventilated, and there is no central recirculation. Energy-saving measures that reduce ventilation have been switched off. Rooms that did not suffice, such as rooms that were not mechanically ventilated, are no longer used for educational purposes.

Additional smoke tests

Smoke tests have been carried out in a number of exceptional rooms, such as in the high sports halls where exams were held. This in order to check whether the flushing of the room with outside air is sufficient. In three sports halls, the amount of fresh air was adequate, but the flushing was not. Most of the fresh air was removed before reaching the floor surface. This was the reason for renewing the air handling system in these halls. The work in the last two halls will be completed at the beginning of December 2020.

Due to the experience with these halls, it was decided to check all the lecture rooms not only theoretically but also practically. The amount of fresh air in all the rooms is measured, and the flushing is determined by means of tests with smoke. There are no unacceptable deficiencies in ventilation found. If situations are found that are not optimal, improvements are made as soon as possible.

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